

Message Text

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42

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SNM-02 AGR-20 NSCE-00 AID-20 SS-15

EB-11 DODE-00 DRC-01 SSO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-10 TRSE-00 NSC-10 SCI-06

OMB-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 IOE-00 /139 W

----- 122208

O 181008Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1688

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 4940

DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS SEPT 18

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UN, TH

SUBJECT: UN CROP SUBSTITUTION PROJECT IN THAILAND

REF: (A) STATE 179710 (B) BANGKOK 14035 (C) BANGKOK 14196

1. MARTENS TELEPHONED TO SAY HE HAS BEEN CONSIDERING MATTER OF PURCHASE/MARKETING GUARANTEE UPCOMING GROWING SEASON FOR FARMERS IN KING'S PROJECT VILLAGES WHO GROW KIDNEY BEANS IN LIEU OF OPIUM. NOTED THAT IN RESPECT OF UN PILOT AND SATELLITE VILLAGES NECESSARY GUARANTEE ARRANGEMENTS ARE ALREADY IN TRAIN.

2. MARTENS SAID HE QUITE SEES NEED FOR GUARANTEE TO BE PUT UP FOR KING'S PROJECT VILLAGES. NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT "KING'S PROJECT" COVERS HUNDREDS OF VILLAGES SPREAD OVER WIDE AREA. BEFORE HE CAN CONSIDER UNFDAC COMMITMENT HE NEEDS SOONEST MORE "SUBSTANTIVE" BACKGROUND INFOR AS TO HOW FIGURES USG HAS PRESENTED TO HIM RE NUMBER OF VILLAGES INVOLVED (APPROXIMATELY 65) AND AMOUNT OF GUARANTEE REQUIRED (\$100,000) WERE ARRIVED AT. HE WOULD

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LIKE THIS DATA PREPARED IN LIGHT QUICK ON-THE-SPOT TECHNICAL APPRAISAL BY MANN AND USG EXPERTS (HE MENTIONED USDA ATTACHE

BANGKOK AND MANIS).

SAID DATA SHOULD SHOW HOW MANY VILLAGES INVOLVED AND HOW THIS FIGURE ARRIVED AT; HOW PURCHASE/MARKETING FIGURE CALCULATED; AND HOW REASONABLE SAFEGUARDS CAN BE APPLIED TO ENSURE THAT BEANS UN BUYS FROM KING'S PROJECT FARMERS ARE IN FACT GROWN IN LIEU OF AND NOT IN ADDITION TO OPIUM.

3. MARTENS SAID HE ALSO REQUIRES WRITTEN REQUEST THAT UNFDAC PROVIDE PURCHASE/MARKETING GUARANTEE IN SPECIFIED AMOUNT AND FOR SPECIFIED NUMBER OF VILLAGES FOR BEANS GROWN IN LIEU OPIUM IN NON-UN VILLAGES. ADDED HE NOT SURE WHETHER THIS REQUEST SHOULD COME FROM USG OR RTG BUT STRESSED HE WANTS SOMETHING IN WRITING.

4. MISSION CONSIDERS IT MUCH PREFERABLE THAT SUCH REQUEST SHOULD COME FROM RTG RATHER THAN USG. HOWEVER, WE ARE OF COURSE READY OURSELVES PREPARE REQUEST UTILIZING REFTELS AND SUBMIT ON BEHALF OF USG IF STATE/BANGKOK WISHES US DO SO. IF RTG IS TO SUBMIT REQUEST, TEXT COULD BE CABLED THROUGH AMEMBASSY BANGKOK CHANNELS. SUGGEST ALSO THAT DATA MARTENS HAS REQUESTED TO BACK UP REQUEST ALSO BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH EMBASSY CHANNELS SINCE UN COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ARE SOMETIMES SLOW.

5. WE UNDERSTAND MARTENS HAS CABLED MANN IN CHIANG MAI ABOUT NEED FOR BACKUP DATA AND HAS SUGGESTED HE CONSULT WITH USG EXPERTS.

6. WE HAVE STRESSED TO MARTENS/MICUTA NEED FOR UN TO TAKE URGENT ACTION WITH RTG TO SOLVE MARKETING PROBLEM BOTH IN SHORT-TERM AND IN LONG-TERM. MICUTA HAS ALREADY BEEN WORKING IN THIS DIRECTION AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE MATTER WITH HIM. SUGGEST THAT AMEMBASSY BANGKOK SHOULD ALSO PURSUE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH UNFDAC PROJECT PERSONNEL.

7. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.
BASSIN

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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